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TO : Amembassy TEL AVIV 72

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FROM : Department of State DATE:

SUBJECT : USS LIBERTY Claim

REF : Tel Aviv 2555

Deputy Assistant Secretary Atherton raised the remaining LIBERTY ship damage claim with Israeli Embassy Minister Argov January 20, in the course of a general conversation on a variety of subjects.

Atherton reiterated the USG's appreciation for prompt processing and payment by Israel of the death and injury claims. He reminded Argov that the last word the U.S. had from the GOI on the remaining claim was last May when Mr. Elizur told Ambassador Barbour that Israel's response to the U.S. diplomatic note concerning the ship damage claim was being cleared within the Israel Government. We were therefore still carrying an outstanding claim against the Israeli Government on our books and thought there had been more than ample time for a reply.

Argov said he would query the Foreign Ministry about the present status of the Israeli response to the U.S. claim.

ROGERS

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REVIEWED BY Lynn Kelley DATE 9/22/82

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10-64

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